



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: May 20, 2005

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## **FORMER EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING FROM ANGELINA COUNTY TAX OFFICE**

(Beaumont, Texas) A former employee of the Angelina County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for embezzling over \$171,000 in county tax funds. **ALLISON BATSON**, 37, of Lufkin, was also ordered to pay \$134,115.16 in restitution at the sentencing today by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield. Batson had pleaded guilty to mail fraud charges on January 26, 2005.

According to information presented to the court, Batson was employed as a Delinquent Tax Deputy for the Angelina County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office. In that position, Batson received tax payments for delinquent tax accounts and prepared deposit reports to indicate tax payments had been received. From around 2001 to June 11, 2004, Batson devised a scheme in which she withheld tax payments made in cash, pocketing the money for her personal use. Batson mailed tax receipts to individuals indicating their tax payer's accounts had been credited, when in fact the payments had not been entered into the county's tax records.

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Batson Sentence

The amount of loss involved in this case was determined to be \$171,116.15 and affected accounts for individual tax payers, businesses, bankruptcy and escrow accounts and Tax Sale Proceeds. Batson had already repaid \$37,000 before today's sentencing.

**United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig was pleased with the sentence, "The Defendant's actions unjustly tarnished the reputation of all honest county employees. Those actions will not be tolerated and we will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute individuals who violate the public's trust."**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Texas Rangers investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reynaldo P. Morin is prosecuted the case.

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